



MEDICAL



NEWS-PAPER;

OR,

THE DOCTOR

AND

THE PHYSICIAN.

EDITED BY ELIAS SMITH, PHYSICIAN, NO. 56, MIDDLE-STREET.

The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth:—With such doth he heal Men, and taketh away their PAINS.”—ECCLES. xxxviii. 4, 7.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1822.

No. 15

The Minutes and Report of a Council, which was convened for the purpose of inquiring into the merits of a Pamphlet, recently published in this city, entitled “A statement of the conduct of Elias Smith towards Dr. Samuel Thompson.”

MINUTES, &c.

The Pamphlet examined by the Council was compiled by a committee, composed of respectable gentlemen, belonging to, and appointed by a society called the Friendly Medical Botanic Society, which society consists of persons who have purchased of Dr. Thompson the right of using his system of practice for themselves and families.

When this pamphlet appeared in public, the Rev. Elias Smith, Pastor of the 3d Universalist Society in Boston, and a member in regular standing, of the General Convention of Universalists, finding that his moral character was impeached, and his conduct towards Dr. Thompson declared to be “unjust and derogatory to the character of a man, who stands in the capacity of a public teacher of morality,” thought it to be a duty which was due to himself and to his brethren in the ministry, as well as to the whole commonwealth of christianity, to solicit a board of such persons as would patiently investigate the statements contained in the above mentioned pamphlet, by an impartial attention to all which evidences might offer on both sides of the general subject, and by whom the public opinion would not be misguided.

The following names composed the council being invited by Mr. Smith.

Hosea Ballou of Boston, Hosea Ballou of Roxbury, Sebastian Streeter of Portsmouth, N. H., Barzillai Streeter of Salem, Thomas Whittemore of Cambridgeport, George Can-

non, Esq. of Nantucket, Caleb Loring of Boston, Brooks Pratt of Boston, John Rand of Boston, and Joshua Emmons of Boston.

These all being present, it was thought advisable to appoint a moderator and clerk, that business might be conducted with all possible propriety. Hosea Ballou of Boston was chosen Moderator, and Sebastian Streeter of Portsmouth, Clerk.

It was then voted that the clerk should read the pamphlet, under consideration, in the order, and that Mr. Smith be requested to object to any statement which he should consider untrue in fact or appearance.

Proceeded accordingly—the Clerk reading—Mr. Smith occasionally objecting; the committee who published the pamphlet, and the evidences on whose testimony they framed

Council adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M. Met at 3 o'clock and were favoured with some evidences respecting the securing of the copy right of a book mentioned in the pamphlet; attended further to hear Dr. Thompson's representation of Mr. Smith's conduct, and what was stated by a lady whom he called as a witness. Through the whole time of these inquiries and investigations, Dr. Thompson had free access to the Council, with all the friends he pleased to bring or send—the Committee that compiled the pamphlet, and the evidences, on whose testimony they relied, were freely admitted to state all they

wished to communicate—and when it appeared that the Council was in possession of all the knowledge that could be obtained from both sides of the subject, and the day being spent, the Council adjourned only for the purpose of preparing and making their report, to Thursday, 3 o'clock, P. M.

Thursday, 3, P. M. met according to adjournment, and read and accepted the following

REPORT.

It appears, that in 1817, Dr. Saml. Thompson, desiring to obtain the assistance of some person of ability, character and address, who might assist him, as agent, to bring his medicine and mode of practice into more general repute, was recommended by his friends, and Emmons, Esq. Cannon, who is Dr. Thompson's agent in Nantucket, was objected to by Elias Smith, as a suitable person to render him the assistance he wanted; also, that the Sebastian Streeter having returned to Portsmouth, Hosea Ballou, 2d, was chosen Clerk in his stead.

The morning was spent in attending to much conversation of Dr. Thompson's and what was offered by his friends; also in attending to statements from others which tended to cast light on various subjects relative to the object of inquiry; and at 1 o'clock the

under similar restrictions; but it did not appear, in evidence, that the obligation to keep the medicine a secret, was altogether so direct and binding, in a moral sense, as a positive promise, pledging both word and honor, would seem to make it; for it was directly stated, by several respectable witnesses, who had purchased rights of Doctor Thompson, that they never made any such promise, and that no such direct promise was required of them, at the time they made their purchase or at any other time; but that a small book, containing directions how to use the medicine, was given them when they purchased their rights, which contained the following item: "No one of the members shall reveal, or cause to be revealed, under the penalty of forfeiting his word and honor, any part of the information given by Samuel Thompson to the Society," &c. But as it was understood, by the general consent of the Society, that secrecy was to be observed, it appeared to the Council, that there was some degree of moral obligation binding on those who had purchased the rights, and become members thereby of the Society, not to communicate this knowledge to others. It likewise clearly appeared, that Dr. Thompson was at least equally bound on his part, to furnish Mr. Smith with medicine & the books of direction, to enable him to act as his agent, and that it was understood by the parties that their obligations and interest in their engagements were mutual & reciprocal. As agent for Dr. Thompson, Mr. Smith sold rights and medicine; and having been instructed by Thompson, he administered the medicine to many sick people, and, according to what was stated, his success was equal at least to the expectation entertained in the commencement of his undertaking; so much so, that before Dr. Thompson withdrew his agency and took his medicine and books from him, he had actually paid him not much short, if any, of fifteen hundred dollars.

The difficulty which occasioned the doctor to discontinue Mr. Smith as his agent, appeared, by the doctor's own statement, to concern the conditions on which Mr. Smith should compile a work out of Thompson's manuscripts, and prepare it for the press, and see it corrected in proofs. There was but one evidence produced to prove whether Mr. Smith's demands were unreasonable or not: this was one of the respectable gentlemen who composed the committee that published the pamphlet, on account of which the Council was called; this gentleman was sent by Dr. Thompson to obtain Mr. Smith's conditions, and he stated to the Council that Mr. Smith offered to write the whole and attend it through the press for 40 cents a page. The Council were fully satisfied that this was but a very moderate demand, and this was the opinion of all the gentlemen present who knew any thing of such business.

An important question now rose in the mind of the Council, respecting Dr. Thompson's conduct in throwing Mr. Smith out of employ and publishing to the world that he was no longer his agent, and in taking from him all his medicine and books of direction. For although the written agreement, which constituted Mr. Smith Dr. Thompson's agent, run but one year, yet it had, by mutual consent of the parties, continued from three to four years. As this subject was to be considered only in a moral view by the Council, it became necessary to calculate the weight of provocation which influenced Dr. Thompson to treat Mr. Smith in this way; and it did not appear that there was any provocation at all. It also became necessary to calculate the damage which this measure would be to Mr. Smith, providing he should be still held to fulfil all implied obligations which the mutual agreement of the parties had at first laid him under, while Dr. Thompson should discontinue his own written obligation to Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith entered into this engagement with Dr. Thompson, knowing that the medicine and practice were unpopular, and that it would subject him to the painful endurance of that kind of opposition which treats its object with contempt and scorn. It appeared evident that of this most bitter opposition, Mr. Smith had already endured more than any man of common feelings, would have endured for all the money that Thompson and Smith had both made during the time of his agency. It was furthermore evident to the Council, that Mr. Smith had rendered this medicine and mode of practice such essential service, in the short time of his agency, that its influence in his circle had greatly increased, and that he had given his attention so much to the business as to be better acquainted with it than Thompson himself, as a respectable witness testified that Thompson had acknowledged. The first law of nature now made its demand, Mr. Smith was in Boston with his family and could not live on the wind; he was constantly applied to by the sick for assistance, and that a wife, dear to his bosom, and children, dear to his heart, might have bread, he compounded medicine and administered it, and sold it to the sick. This irritated Dr. Thompson and induced him to prosecute Mr. Smith for an infringement of his patent. Mr. Smith now became Dr. Thompson's prisoner, and must have been torn from his family and immured in a prison, if his friends had not come forward and entered into bonds for him, for the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars!! This prosecution necessarily gave Mr. Smith no small trouble, and put him to large expenses; but finally at the trial it was decided by the honorable judge that Dr. Thompson's patent was invalid, and the action was dismissed. As Mr. Smith now found himself released from all legal demands, and having been put to much trouble and expense by Dr. Thompson,

thought it perfectly right for him to avail himself of any lawful means to recompense himself, in some degree, for what he had suffered, and therefore published a book containing his own mode of practice, which he called an improvement on Dr. Thompson's.

To be continued.

Animated Nature ;—MAN in particular. No. 1.

When the all wise Creator determined on making beings which should be able to move from place to place, he contrived for them an organization different from that of beings which were fixed.

As moveable beings could not have their roots in the ground, he provided them with the cavity of the stomach, in which they were to carry about what should be equivalent to the soil for plants; and the suckers of their nutriment centering into that cavity, were destined to act like the roots of plants in the soil.

Hence, in all animals, exists the necessity of eating frequently, to fill the cavity of the stomach; hence the folly and mischief of filling it with heterogeneous and unnatural substances; it being the object of nature simply to extract from the matter in the stomach a homogeneous milky substance called chyle; no other juice but chyle being admitted into the animal system, the rest being rejected and expelled.

As animals were intended to move about, the perfect are therefore provided with eyes, to see objects which might endanger their safety, with ears, to hear, for a similar reason; with a voice, to warn others, or to obtain assistance in danger.

Hence also they were provided with senses of smelling and tasting, to discriminate the food which was proper for the stomach; and with the sense of feeling, to secure their identities, and excite them to action.

And though things sensible be numberless,
But only five the senses' organs be;

And in those five, all things their forms express,
Which we can touch, taste, smell, or hear, or see.

The organs of sense and the powers of motion proceed from the head and brain, by the nerves, which direct the muscles and tendons; but the functions of animal life are sustained by a simple, yet wonderful arrangement, in the stomach and cavities of the body.

The heart is the centre of a vast number of

tubes, called *arteries*; and by its never-ceasing contractions, it carries the blood through them, to all parts of the frame, diffusing every where warmth and life.

The blood of a man, thus driven by the contraction of the heart (a force like that by which water is driven out of a syringe or bladder,) weighs about 30 pounds; and, as this cavity of the heart is called into action; and the stock of the precious fluid possessed by each of us, and our lives depend on its constant circulation, it is not allowed to remain at the extremity of the arteries, but is there taken up by another set of tubes called *veins*, and by them brought back again to the heart.

Thus, there is a constant circulation, outward and inward, of this same blood, at the rate of an ounce to each contraction, from the heart through the *arteries*, and back to the heart by the *veins*. To warm, revive, nourish it, and keep up its quantity, there are various other wonderful, but very simple contrivances.

Were once the energy of air deny'd,
The heart would cease to pour its purple tide ;
The purple tide forget its wonted play,
Nor back again pursue its curious way.

The heart consists of four cavities, from one of which, called the *left ventricle*, the blood is driven into the arteries through the body; by another, called the *right auricle*, it is received back again by the veins: it then passes into the *right ventricle*, whence it is forced into the lungs.

Having there been revivified by coming into contact with the air, it is carried back by a set of veins into the *left auricle*, and, from thence, into the *left ventricle*, where it began its course: it is then again forced into the arteries, brought back by the veins, &c. till the end of life.

The *lungs* are a large spongy substance, filling nearly the whole cavity of the chest, which rises as they fill, and falls as they empty, in respiring air through the mouth and nostrils.

The act of respiration is performed about twenty times in a minute; and about forty cubic inches of air are respired every time; of which two inches of oxygen are absorbed by the blood in the lungs, producing, at the same instant, 98 degrees of vital heat, and restoring to the venous blood its bright red colour.

The *Lights* as they are called, or the lungs of sheep and oxen, are exactly similar to the

lungs of man. On inspection, they will be resolved into a soft pap by a powerful liquid found to be wonderfully adapted to their desire where warmth and life.

sign of bringing the air into contact with the blood. Any rupture in their tender fabric, or defect in their action, leads to that fatal disease called Consumption.

Four thousand times in every hour, each branch in every direction thro' the body, like the roots, branches, and leaves of a tree, running through the substance of the bones, and all the blood in the body passes through the heart 14 times during that space.

The arteries, into which it is forced, at the extremity of the arteries, but is there taken up by another set of tubes called *veins*, and by them brought back again to the heart.

every part of the animal substance, till they are lost in such fine tubes as to be wholly invisible.

In this manner, they distribute nourishment, supply perspiration, and renew all the waste of the system; and, by passing through glands in every part of the body, all the various animal secretions are elaborated.

In the parts where the arteries are lost to the sight, the veins take their rise, and in their commencement are also imperceptible. The blood is then of a dark colour; and, as it returns to the heart with a less impetus, there is always more blood in the veins than in the arteries.

As the blood in this discoloured state has lost some of its vital power, it is driven through the lungs, and its colour is restored; but on its passage back to the heart, it also receives a supply of a new fluid extracted from the food of the animal in the stomach and intestines.

The loss of weight in a human body by perspiration in 24 hours is about four pounds; and what is gained by the inspiration of air into the lungs, is lost by the expulsion of moisture, and of gas generated in the lungs.

The motion of the lungs is preserved by that of the chest containing them; that of the heart may be felt on the left breast—and the circulation of the blood, from the action of the pulse in various parts of the body, and particularly at the wrist.

In children, the pulse gives 120 strokes in a minute; at 20 years, about 75: at 30, about 70; and in old age, 60 or 65.

For the purpose of renewing and nourishing the blood, food is taken in at the mouth, macerated by the teeth, and mixed with the saliva: it is then carried into the stomach, a bag like a highland bag-pipe, where it is dis-

called the gastric juice. This pap is then forced from the stomach into the intestines, where it is separated into a white milky liquid called *chyle*, and into the excrement.

The chyle is taken up or absorbed by myriads of fine tubes called the *lacteals*, which carry it to a main-pipe called the *thoracic duct*. This pipe ascends to the throat, where it empties the chyle into a large vein, and being mixed with the blood, is conveyed to the heart.

Of such subtle and wonderful contrivance is the organization of man! Similar also, is the construction of the whole of animated nature, from the greatest to the smallest.

Within the package of the skin, and essential to life and comfort, are numerous bones for strength; hundreds of muscles and tendons for action; nerves spread every where for sensation; arteries, to carry out the blood; veins to bring it back again; and glands performing all kinds of secretions; besides an infinite number of tubes called *lacteals* and *lymphatics*, to absorb and convey nutriment to the blood.

Such being the complex construction of our bodies, is it not wonderful that we last 70 or 80 years! When it is considered also, that a muscle or a bone out of place, a vein or an artery stopt in its circulation, or a nerve unduly acted upon, creates disease, pain and misery; is it not wonderful, that we enjoy so large a portion of health and pleasure?

Should not such considerations teach us the value of prudence and temperance?

Thick, in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
Upward and downward, thwarting and convolv'd,
The quivering nations sport; till, tempest-wing'd
Fierce winter sweeps them from the face of day;
Ev'n so, luxurious men, unheeding pass
An idle summer-life in fortune's shine—
A season's glitter! Thus they flutter on
From toy to toy, from vanity to vice :—
Till, blown away by death, oblivion comes
Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.'

THOMSON.

To be continued.

LOBELIA.—[Continued.]

USE OF THE EMETIC HERB.

It is now about fourteen years since my first acquaintance with this herb, as an emetic, in my family; and towards six years since I took it to relieve in sickness, and nearly five

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years since I administered it to others. Though one of the most useful herbs on earth with others, it is not so alone, as it does not possess all needful to restore health to the sick man. It is very quick in its operations, but if some other medicine is not added to assist, it soon exhausts itself, and is done.

Not far from thirteen years ago, my oldest daughter was very feeble, supposed to be in a consumption. I applied to the most skilful doctor in Portsmouth, (as was supposed) he attended her a while; she failed continually with all his directions. A young man somewhat acquainted with this emetic, and the manner of using it, proposed to administer it to her; this he did, three times in one week. In a few weeks she recovered, and afterwards enjoyed good health.

Five years ago, I was violently seized in Boston, with the bilious cholic, and found no relief. I went to Portsmouth, and was attended with this emetic and other things in harmony with it, and with twice being attended, was entirely cured, and have not had a return of the complaint to this day. Soon after this, I began to administer it to others; which practice I have continued till now, with a success unknown in the administration of any other medicine.

I have found it, with other medicines, an infallible cure in all cases, excepting such as are beyond all cure. I have given it to all ages, from two days old to men of eighty-two, females in all cases peculiar to them, and have never known it to fail, in curable cases. There are two cases, where it will not operate; one is, when the person is dying; here it will not act, of course it will not cause death to any one. The other case is, when all disease is removed. It will not make a well man sick. When a man is so sick as to be past cure, this emetic will relieve him, and cause him to live longer, and easier than without, excepting in mortification.

It is said by some, that if it does not operate, it is immediate death. This is not true, neither can it be proved so by any one.

THE POWER OF THE EMETIC HERB.

Several physicians have mentioned to me that they were afraid to use it, not knowing the power of it. This I am thoroughly acquainted with, beyond a doubt. The power of it is, with other medicines, to remove the

cause it is given to remove, and no more. Like food, which has power to remove hunger, drink to remove thirst, riches to remove poverty, life to remove death, &c. It operates on disease in every part of the body, as the eye stone does, in removing from the eye whatever injures. When this is done, the stone ceases its operation.

There is no doubt but the power of it, as well as all other good things may be abused; but used in a proper medium, its power is always against disease, and in favor of the diseased. If enough is not given, it worries; if more than is needed is given, it is lost, but will not kill. No one ever died by its operation, as there is no death in it. It is possible some have died by taking it, because those who gave it raised the outward heat too high, by having the room too-warm, by putting on too many clothes, or by steaming hot stones and putting them round the sick person.—This ought always to be remembered, and then all is safe.

I do not know that any one ever died in this way, but this is the only way in which a person may die, that I know of, in taking this emetic. This emetic is so powerful, as to search every part from head to foot, to remove (with other medicines) obstructions from the brain, eyes, nose, ears, mouth, jaws, throat, muscles, heart, lungs, liver, stomach, midriff, bowels, kidneys, gall bladder, bones, marrow, sinews, legs and feet; it will go through the veins, arteries, blood vessels, and every part that can be obstructed; so far it has power to go, and no further.

There is an oil in this herb, which can be diffused through the whole body, for the general good of the whole.

This herb stands at the head of all the herbs made for the service of man, and is the king of all diseases, and with its army, has power to overcome all opposed to the health of man, while in a curable state.

FOR THE MEDICAL NEWSPAPER.

Fever.

Are Fevers treated in a proper manner by what are called "Regular Doctors"? Do they treat them so as to remove the cause? The common treatment is this:—Bleed, blister, give emetics and cathartics, nitre, and cooling things, and keep them from eating if hungry, and from drinking if thirsty. What is the effect of all this?

One says, I had a fever and was attended by a Regular Doctor;—but ever since my eyes have been very weak. Another,—I had a fever, and ever since have been quite hard of hearing. Another,—I had a fever, and it turned to a sore, called a fever-sore, and ever since have been a cripple. Another,—I had a fever, and ever since have been subject to a violent pain in my head. Another—I had a fever, and the doctor gave me mercury, and ever since I have had pain in my stomach or side; my countenance pale, my feet and hands cold in warm weather. Is this taking away the cause of the fever? Can this be called curing the sick person? No. It is nothing more than shifting the difficulty from one part to another! The doctors consider a person in a fever to have too much heat, and therefore give cooling things. Is not this inconsistent? A person will tell you—he took a violent cold, which caused a fever. Is it reasonable to suppose that in taking this violent cold the quantity of heat is increased? No. The fact is this:—The cold gets the power over the heat, and throws it upon the surface of the body, and every cold mineral that is administered, increases the cold, protracts the disease, and at last settles down in one spot, attracts the cold from other parts, and there remains a torment to all future life, if not removed.

There is no other way to cure a fever, but to increase the heat, drive out the cold, open the pores, clear the stomach and bowels, and bring a proper balance in the system; then the patient is in health, with no torment left behind.

G.

ANECDOCE.

A clergyman being accused of non-conformity, said to his friends, that if he was turned out of the church it would cost a thousand men their lives. This strange speech being noised abroad, he was summoned before a magistrate, and required to explain himself. If I lose my benefice, said he, I shall practice *Physic*; and then I may, if successful, kill that number.

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